

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Matt Carpenter, ADOT  
Manuel Tapia, Jr., City of Nogales

**From:** David Fields

**Date:** April 11, 2006

**Subject:** Nogales Transit Study - Subtask 1-A: Review of Existing Documents

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### I. Introduction

The Nogales Transit Study was initiated with a review of previously completed studies and on-going programs to provide background into the travel patterns of Nogales. This memorandum summarizes the key findings of the existing documents and will be used as a basis for future tasks. While many of these documents include regional study areas (frequently contiguous with the SEAGO coverage region), only the portions related to Nogales are included in this review.

### II. Existing Documents

The following documents were identified as resources to inform the Nogales Transit Study and are reviewed below:

- *Southeastern Arizona Transit Development Plan;*
- *Unified Nogales/Santa Cruz County Transportation 2000 Plan*
- *Southeast Arizona Regional Transportation Profile;* and
- *ADOT's Small Area Transportation Study.*

In addition, recent construction projects within Nogales may influence long-term demand for transit. To accommodate this influence, recent and proposed development projects were researched with the City of Nogales' Building Director and available project documentation.

### III. Review of Existing Documents

#### A. Southeastern Arizona Transit Development Plan

Completed in 1995 by ADOT and SEAGO, this study had two goals:

- Identify the overall public and specialized transit needs of the region and the level of service required to meet these needs; and
- Identify a five-year plan for public and specialized transit, providing an overall framework for development for the 1996-2000 time period.

As of 1995, the following transportation programs served Nogales:

- Santa Cruz Council on Aging (demand responsive service to the Nogales Senior Center congregate meal site and the Association of the Blind site);
- Santa Cruz Training Program (fixed route weekday service for clients to and from the program center and job sites);
- Santa Cruz Family Guidance Center (demand responsive service for clients and case managers running errands for clients, plus intercity trips to Tucson and Benson);
- Taxis (75 registered taxis providing demand responsive service);
- Dabdoub Bus Service (Fixed route service between the border and retail stores on Mariposa Road. This service is funded by local businesses and oriented to shoppers from Mexico);
- Citizen Auto Stage (Fixed route intercity service along Interstate 19 between Nogales and Tucson);
- Fast Transportation (Fixed route intercity service along Interstate 19 between Nogales and Tucson);
- AHCCCS Acute Care Services (including AHCCS Blue Connection, Arizona Physicians IPA, Inc., Cigna Community Choice, Doctors Health Plan, Family Health Plan of NE Arizona, Mercy Health Plan, Cochise Health Systems, and Ventana Health System).

Transit demand was analyzed based on general public trips and elderly/disabled trips not associated with a social service program. The sources for this analysis included the 1990 U.S. Census, and TCRP's Rural Transit Demand Estimation Techniques. The analysis concluded that 15,000 riders were provided annually for trips in Nogales, while there was demand for 55,400 trips; this represents a supplied demand of 27% of actual demand.

The following issues were identified as constraints to transit services in Nogales:

- Congestion due to taxis, local buses, and intercity buses waiting for passengers at the border;
- Buses used for local transportation services are old and do not add a positive image for the City;
- Safety of taxi operations; and
- Transit services are not oriented to local residents, but rather to persons from Mexico going to retail centers.

The following transit service options were recommendations to improve transportation conditions:

- Local service: Operate one fixed-route daily and two checkpoint routes on weekdays (4 vehicles needed);
- Regional services: Operate service to Tucson once per week and service to Rio Rico twice per week (1 vehicle needed); and
- Nogales Transportation Plaza: Construct an intermodal facility near the border.

The annual total cost for these improvements was estimated at \$368,500.

*B. Unified Nogales/Santa Cruz County Transportation 2000 Plan*

Completed in December 2000 by Kimley-Horn and Associates, this report documents existing transportation system needs and deficiencies, and recommends transportation improvements to support the City and the region. The following existing transit conditions were documented in the report:

- There are no fixed route public bus services within the region;
- There are several publicly funded transportation services for specified trip purposes, including Santa Cruz Council on Aging, Santa Cruz Training Program, and Santa Cruz Family Guidance Center;
- A private operator provides transit services between the International Border and the retail shops on Mariposa Road; and
- Other private transit operators are available to provide similar services for shoppers within the region.

The report did not recommend transit projects for implementation to address unmet transportation needs.

*C. Southeast Arizona Regional Transportation Profile*

According to the Arizona Department of Transportation, data for this study is currently being collected and will be incorporated into a projection of regional transportation needs. If these projections are available prior to the completion of the Nogales study, they will be incorporated into this project's decision-making.

A review of the study's Technical Advisory Committee meeting notes identified the following key concerns and issues:

- Quality of local and regional data, in particular the Highway Performance Monitoring System data is not confirmed;
- Population growth not consistent throughout Arizona with parts of the study area experiencing rapid growth;
- Border issues require international coordination on ports-of-entry, freight, and other transportation patterns;
- Provision of transit services.

*D. Small Area Transportation Study*

According to the Arizona Department of Transportation-Transportation Planning Division, this study is currently being kicked-off. Work efforts from both the SATS and the Nogales Transit Study will be coordinated to maximize efficiency and provide consistent findings.

IV. Recent and Proposed Development Projects (see **Figure 1**)

A. Commercial Developments

- i. Oasis Cinema 9: Anticipated to open in April 2006 as part of Oases Town Center (south of Mariposa Road);
- ii. Mariposa Self Storage: Project recently opened at 900 West Mariposa Road.
- iii. EDS Manufacturing Phase II: Located at 65 North Target Range Road, EDS Manufacturing, Inc. specializes in the manufacturing of electrical automotive and appliance wire harnesses, electromechanical assemblies, switches and microswitches.
- iv. Bank of Tucson: Project recently opened at 610 North Morley Avenue.

B. Residential Developments (estimated number of units)

- i. Santa Carolina Apartments: 128 units on West Paul Bond Drive;
- ii. Meadow Hills #11: 61 units south of Country Club Drive;
- iii. Meadow Hills #12: 14 units north of Country Club Drive;
- iv. Hidden Hill: 70 units east of Al Harrison Road;
- v. Peter Anthony Resubdivision: 20 units north of Anza Drive;
- vi. Hacienda Los Nogales: 25 units north of Patagonia Highway;
- vii. Winston Manor: 162 units south of Patagonia Highway;
- viii. Vista Del Cielo Estates: 65 units north of Monte Carlo;
- ix. Unnamed: Undetermined residential development south of Cam Campetre West .

# Recent and Proposed Developments

